

THE FIELD OF BATTLE

INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES OF THE WAR

The Veterans of the Rebellion Tell of Whistling Bullets, Bright Bayonets, Bursting Bombs, Bloody Battles, Camp Fire, Festive Buge, Etc., Etc.

In the days of the Civil War, especially after the beginning of '62, there were stirring times in the "north country," or those portions bordering upon Canada.

West Stewartstown, N. H.; Beecher Falls, Vt., and the township of Hereford, P. Q., are those most frequently mentioned in the tales of the sixties as having been the scenes of bloody encounters and such wholesale smuggling as to render them more closely patrolled by the government than almost any other points upon the border.

When the boys in blue were fighting for their country the recruiting sergeants found it necessary to "draft" soldiers to enter the struggle between the north and the south, and they scoured the country for able-bodied men who had not come to the front voluntarily. These men, who were to be forced into fight against their will, rebelled, and large numbers of them made their escape "over the line" into Canada.

At that time, when good roads were not as frequently seen as now, the main arteries of travel in the north country were the roads to Canada on both sides of the Connecticut river in Vermont and New Hampshire.

It was a common occurrence for a man who had been drafted to make his escape from home during the night and drive at a mad pace up river to Canada, where, once over the border, he could not be touched by Uncle Sam's officers. Some of these men journeyed all the way from Massachusetts and Connecticut, taking roads by the main line, sinking through the woods by day, sleeping in barns or haystacks at night and begging or buying here and there, at wayside farms, food and drink for their sustenance.

Over 100 of the men who held their own safety dearer than their country's honor went to Hereford and Pequettsville alone, and were dubbed by the residents of Canada, who had small sympathy for them, by the suggestive epithet of "skeddaddlers."

Here, once safely over the line, they "skeddaddled" and built for themselves from logs, fence rails or a few dollars' worth of lumber, quaint little huts, barely large enough to accommodate them and their belongings. In pasture and forest they built up their settlement, and even now an occasional "skeddaddler's hut" may be seen, slowly rotting away.

Some of the men who had sufficient money clubbed together and built log houses, which are still standing in Pequettsville, a part of Hereford. The huts were built in curious shapes, some being octagonal, other triangular, still others hexagonal. Square ones and round ones were frequently seen, and some of the men exercised great ingenuity in the building of their temporary abodes. Once in a while a wigwam-shaped hut may be seen, built around the trunk of a large spruce or pine tree, the branches of which served to keep off the wind and rain.

Very often one might have seen a conveyance loaded with blankets and provisions, driven by the wife of one of the "skeddaddlers," drive up to the line. The husband would be in waiting, quickly snatch the supplies and dart to the other side of the little granite sign-post that divided the United States from the Queen's dominions. Here, once past the post, all the detectives in the States were powerless to touch him, and he might visit all the afternoon with his wife, who generally kept her side of the line with impunity.—Boston Herald.

Stories of Longstreet and Gordon. "General Gordon," said the Major, "told a story well, and he had many good stories to tell. Long before he took the lecture field I heard him tell a story in Washington which went the rounds of the newspapers at that time and brought him closer to the men who wore the blue in the Civil War."

"Gordon was speaking of the depression of the men in the ranks of Lee's army between the fall of Richmond and the surrender at Appomattox. The men did not lose courage, but were not as they had been. One day, riding along the road, the General came upon a regimental prayer meeting, which was very impressive. The men were kneeling or standing with bowed heads about the chaplain, who was praying in a voice of wonderful compass.

"The General checked his horse and removed his hat and waited for the end of the prayer. The chaplain asked the Lord to give the men of Lee's army supreme courage to meet the great crisis that had come upon them, fortitude to bear new privations and troubles, strength to fight against the pursuing enemy. Just then a tall private rose from his knees and shouted to the chaplain: 'Pray for bread, chaplain, pray for bread. We have courage to burn, but to fight we must have something to eat. Pray for bread.' This broke up the prayer meeting.

"General Longstreet used to tell a good many stories to show that the men of his command always treated captured Union soldiers with as much consideration and kindness as was possible under the circumstances. He said that his orders on this point were very strict, and he never knew any of his men to disobey. As he went on to explain how proud he was of the record of his men on this point a lie-

terer employed in one of the departments at Washington interrupted him. "Undoubtedly your orders were strict, General," he said, "but I happen to know that they were evaded. For example, in East Tennessee you ordered your men to respect the belongings of prisoners, and this is the way some of them did it. I wore a good pair of army shoes, nearly new. One day a good natured fellow in gray with no shoes to speak of walked along our line looking intently at the shoes of the captured Unionists. He put his foot by the side of mine, and remarking that I was just his size, added, 'Old Pete (Longstreet) says he will have every man shot who steals anything from a prisoner. To save my life, won't you trade shoes with me, for I must have them shoes.' Of course I traded, as did other prisoners." At this Longstreet smiled, but insisted that the story didn't prove anything.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Played Marbles with Jackson. Preston Jackson, a white-haired negro of East Des Moines, bears the distinction of having played with "Stonewall" Jackson, shot at the general during the Civil War and captured his own brother from the Confederate lines. Jackson thinks he is about 90 years of age. He speaks in rich southern dialect, and tells his own story best.

"My mother was waiting maid to Mrs. Celia Mitchell, daughter of Captain Hancock Jackson, who an uncle of 'Stonewall' Jackson. My father was a Scotch-Irishman.

"Mistah Mitchell sold mother and me to Captain Jackson when 'Stonewall' was a little shavah. I brought \$1,500. We used to play marbles, hunt rabbits and sky-lark together. He used to call me 'Skinny' and I called him 'Vent Dubbs,' for he shot. He all played fair an' tho't a heap o' me.

"I went to de Mex'can war wif ole Massa Captain and mother stayed wif de chilluns. We war gone two years and den went back to fa'men. By'm bye, Lincoln was heard from, de big war broke lose and I run away. We war liven in Missouri then, an' I coned mother ter come wif me to Iowa. I got her a job an' one day I come home all dressed up in blue an' brass buttons, an' she kinder cried. She hugged an' kissed me considerable, an' de last words I evah heard her say war: 'Now, Preston Jackson, you do yer best, and if yo don't git killed I spees ter see you come marchin' home wif de nigghals all free.' I did, but she war passed away.

"One day I yanked er feller out'n a wood pile and tote him ter headquarters. We got ter talk'n and I foun' out he war nash brodder. I gib him some money and help him git er way. Two years ago he sent me back de money an' den died.

"Once, when we war fight'n er big battle I see er big general sitt'n up straight like er horse. I look ergin, an' sah, it war 'Stonewall' Jackson, sure as yo' live. Somebody punch me in de ribs and say 'keep on er shoot'n.' So I did.

"As I drawed er head on ole 'Stonewall,' I heard er voice, kinder 'way back, sing'n like er kid, 'Vent Dubbs' an' I saw er little shavah kneel'n ter 'pick er raw.' I couldn't see fob'er'n like. Jes' den de flag, de stahs an' stripes, Old Glory, dey call her,—gosh, I'd die fer her, git-blowed so I could see de red shinen in de sun. Den I says, 'Preston Jackson, Vent Dubbs be —, do yer duty,—an' fired. De smoke blowed er way sos I could see, an' bress my life, I'd missed him s-lek es er whistle. Oh! Lordy, but I felt good!"—Des Moines News.

Gordon Soldiers' Idol.

An incident of the mustering out of volunteers at Savannah, Ga., after the Spanish-American war shows how the rank and file of the army felt toward General John B. Gordon. He had been in command of a brigade, but had been discharged and was again a citizen of the republic. One of his regiments, the Sixth Missouri, was in camp at Savannah waiting to be mustered out of the service. While the men were ready to inflict any insult on the officers of their own regiment, they loved General Gordon.

In their desire to show admiration for him they collected a fund—and money was not plentiful at that time—to purchase a jeweled sword for the old Confederate who had won the affections of Northern boys while a general in command. The weapon was bought. It was a fine piece of workmanship and would have appealed to any soldier. When time came for the presentation, the rank and file of the regiment met, elected a private as colonel, and placed privates in every other place commonly occupied by commissioned officers.

The private, who had never been able to win even a corporal's stripes, sat his horse with the grace of a West Pointer and commanded the companies and battalions with the ease of a regular army officer. In this style the boys marched five miles to town, and halting in front of General Gordon's old home, asked him to come out on his veranda.

As he stood there, looking the fine citizen he was, the soldiers broke into cheers. After the sword had been placed in his hands he invited the soldiers into his house, and every man found some refreshment there, such was the general's preparation to entertain any who happened to cross his threshold.

General Gordon's place in the affections of the private soldiers was not won by any sacrifice of official dignity, but simply because all hands recognized in him the goodness of heart and the character that cannot be hid by a soldier's uniform or developed by any other garb.

PUNISH THE INSURGENTS

AMERICAN WAR VESSELS FIRE ON SAN DOMINGO REBELS.

San Domingans Fired on American Merchant Vessel and Shots Landed Near Captain Miller's Cruiser Columbia.

PARIS.—A dispatch from San Domingo says that the United States cruiser Columbia and the training ship Hartford have bombarded Duarte, which is occupied by the insurgents.

WASHINGTON.—Late tonight the state department received a cablegram from Minister Powell, dated at San Domingo, February 16, saying a decisive battle has been fought between the government forces and the insurgents. It is extended over two days and resulted in a victory of the government. The siege has been raised and the insurgents are in retreat.

A belated dispatch dated February 12 from Captain J. M. Miller of the United States cruiser Columbia which with the Newark, is in San Domingo waters, brings official confirmation of the associated press dispatch regarding the bombardment of the insurgents by the war vessels, from a position near the capital city, the landing of marines and blue jackets to punish the revolutionists and their subsequent re embarkation. According to Captain Miller's dispatch the affair occurred on a river about two miles from San Domingo, presumably at the place mentioned in the press dispatches as the locality where the bombardment occurred. The insurgents who were stationed on the mainland, fired on a United States merchant vessel believed to be the New York, which was lying in the river. The shots fell so dangerously near the war vessels that the acts of the insurgents were construed by Captain Miller as an attack on the vessels and a battery fire was opened on the revolutionists. This was followed up by the debarkment of four hundred marines and blue jackets from the Columbia and Newark who made a successful landing ashore. They dislodged the insurgents from their position and chased them into the country. After accomplishing this the marines and blue jackets took again to their boats and returned to their ships. One man a bugler named Partrick, was seriously wounded by the accidental explosion of his firing piece. There were no other casualties.

Active in Korea.

TOKIO.—Three hundred Russian scouts reconnoitered yesterday in Wiju and vicinity. They crossed the Yalu river entered the town and scouted through the surrounding country. They then crossed the river and rejoined their main force.

Advices to the Japanese government from Peking say that while at Mukden Viceroy Alexieff asked the Chinese troops to aid in guarding the railway, so as to prevent the interruption of traffic. The Chinese refused the request and asked for instructions from Peking. The Chinese told them to inform Alexieff that as Russia had insisted that the Chinese were unable to guard the railway in time of peace, surely Russia could not expect them to guard it in time of war.

The national loan has already been twice covered. Viscount Yosiki Kawa has been appointed minister for home affairs.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The Viedomosti publishes an editorial article on the pride shown in Great Britain and the United States in their pro-Japanese sympathies, and asks what these will ultimately cost the "cultured west." Answering this question of the 'yellow peril' it is hopeless blindness not to see that Russia stands as a barrier between the approaching rising of Asia and old degenerate Europe, and to desire that this barrier be swept away is absolute imbecility. It is exclaimed that Japan represents progress and civilization. The same thing was said in 1896 about Prussia, and it was not suspected that the success of Prussian arms would be a continual source of alarm and only ended when the Franco-Russian alliance re-establishes the political balance of Europe.

SEOUL.—Japanese fugitives who were maltreated at Port Arthur arrived at Chemupo yesterday and the story of their ill treatment has created great excitement among the settlers there.

Pool Room Running Wide.

ST. LOUIS.—All the persons injured in the riot at Madison, Ill., yesterday following the attempt of citizens to close up a pool room there are doing well and none will die. Despite the threats of another raid, the pool room opened again this afternoon and the usual crowd of St. Louis men came over. Reting was conducted as usual. In the presence of Chief of Police McCambridge.

FIGHT MAY BE ON

RENEWAL OF JAPANESE ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

ONLY PARTLY CREDITED

VICE ADMIRAL TOGO SUPPOSED TO BE ASSAILANT.

four of Russian Craft Declared to Have Fallen into the Hands of the Enemy—Ugly Demonstration at Prague.

TOKIO.—It is reported here that Vice Admiral Togo has again attacked Port Arthur.

It is impossible to confirm the statement, but the navy department says it has had no news from Togo today.

It is considered very probable that the vice admiral has made another attack on the Russians, as he is engaged in blockading Port Arthur.

LONDON.—The Nagasaki correspondent of the Daily Telegraph writing under date for February 22 reports that the Japanese squadron has captured four Russian torpedo boats at Port Arthur by using Russian signals. This dispatch appears to confirm reports from various quarters of a fresh attack on Port Arthur by the Japanese.

A correspondent at Tokio of Reuter's telegram company says he learns from a reliable source that the Russian minister to China, Paul Lessar, has successfully bribed Chinese officials with the result that the instructions given the Russian garrison at Mandjur to leave Shanghai were canceled. The Japanese government considers this to be a breach of Chinese neutrality, and is taking steps in the matter.

VIENNA.—The disturban recreated yesterday at Prague by several hundred Slav students following a service of intercession in the Roman church there for the success of Russian arms was more serious than was at first reported. Before the beginning of the service fighting occurred between the opposing factions and several students were injured.

Fully 1,000 students proceeded towards the United States consulate to make a hostile demonstration, but were prevented by the police. After the service the mayor and officials of Prague were given an ovation by the students who shouted "Long live Russia and France," and "Down with Great Britain, the United States and Germany." Students and others who attempted to make pro-Russian speeches were severely beaten.

Japanese Well Treated.

NAGASAKI.—The steamer Stolberg has arrived here from Vladivostok with twenty white foreigners, 1,500 Chinese and fifty Japanese. She brings in addition forty survivors of the Japanese steamer Nakonoura Maru which was sunk by the Russian cruiser squadron from Vladivostok on February 11. Two men were drowned during their transfer to the Russian ships. The survivors were well treated and provided with return passages.

The Vladivostok squadron intended to bombard Hakodate but a snow storm prevented the vessels from entering the Straights of Tsuroma. They intend to make another attempt to reach Hakodate in March, with the cruisers five torpedo boats and an armed transport.

The civilians at Vladivostok have been ordered to leave owing to the scarcity of food, as the government is taking everything available. A panic has seized the Chinese, who are leaving by the wholesale.

TOKIO.—The news of the escape from death of the crew of the Nakonoura Maru was received in Tokio with satisfaction and perceptibly lessens the feeling of bitterness toward the Russians on account of the sinking of the ship.

A prisoners' intelligence bureau has been created and regulations regarding the treatment of prisoners of war published. The Tokyo government. It is understood, has anticipated the necessity of so providing for the care of Russian prisoners.

Byron Kaneko, who, as already announced, will sail for the United States on Thursday, is charged with a diplomatic mission concerning the neutral relations of the two countries.

Pour Whisky Into Gutter.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—A supply of whisky, smuggled into Chicago to be used in a political celebration, was discovered by the temperance women of the place. They marched into a restaurant where the intoxicants were stored and seizing the supply emptied it into the gutter. Chicago is a prohibition community and the sentiment there is strongly in approval of the action of the raiders.

DRIVING THEM UP AS SPIES

RUSSIANS MAKE SHORT WORK OF JAPANESE PRISONERS.

From 11 never, to Be Officers of General Staff, and One a Colonel—Intense Cold in War Territory.

WAR DEVELOPMENTS.

An early dash by Japanese troops for a strategic position in northern Korea is expected.

Admiral Alexieff has arrived at established headquarters at Harbin. The advisability of strengthening the Asiatic fleet is being considered at Washington.

Reports that Admiral Togo has renewed the attack at Port Arthur reached Tokio and are partly confirmed at London, where dispatches are published saying four Russian torpedo boats have been captured.

Japanese minister Hayashi discredited the report of a land battle on the Yalu, in which many Russians were killed.

The Turkish minister at Washington greeted its war in the Balkans.

Japan will not begin aggressive operations in Manchuria for months.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The Japanese who were hanged by Russians in Manchuria for attempting to blow up the railroad bridge over the Siantan river were disguised as coolies. They were arrested just as they were about to make the attempt. Inquiry revealed that they were Japanese officers of the general staff, namely Colonel Assal of the engineers, and Lieutenants Zonolaischa and abourta of the sappers. They were at once hanged from the girders of the bridge.

The newspapers of Port Arthur, dated February 4, reached St. Petersburg today indicating that they were less than three weeks in transit. Troop trains probably require a longer time, on account of the difficulties at Lake Baikal, where provisions and troops are crossing both on ice trains and sledges. But the cold is exceedingly severe. Today 36 degrees below (Fahrenheit) was recorded at Irkutsk and other places. Stories of the suffering of the troops in the crossing of the lake are persistent. Some reports say six hundred men were frozen but these lack confirmation, official or otherwise. The telegraph is working well.

Military men desiring to accompany the Russian army have been formally notified that they can proceed when convenient, but it is added, that accommodations and commissariat supplies cannot be guaranteed before March 15. No authorizations have yet been issued to war correspondents and direction will be done until the concentration of troops is completed.

ST. PETERSBURG.—"The war will end in August or September, in the complete defeat of the Japanese," said a high authority in intimate touch with the Russian war plans, whose opinion can be taken faithfully to reflect the belief in the highest official quarters, to the Associated press today.

TOKIO.—The plan arranged for the emperor and imperial headquarters to move to Kyoto has temporarily abandoned, and it is now thought better not to remove until after the closing of the special session of the diet early in April. The inconvenience of removing the seat of government and convening the diet at Kyoto is the reason assigned for the change in the plan. Small interest is manifested in the forthcoming election. The war overshadowed all political questions just now. The country is united politically and it is expected that the new diet will fully support the government and cordially approve all measures concerning the war.

YOKOHAMA.—Police and other officials and interpreters have left Tokio for Myake island, southeast of the Izu peninsula, where twelve Russians recently landed from two boats, declaring they had been shipwrecked, but, carrying arms and photographic cameras. The captain and two of the crew of another shipwrecked party, who landed on the north coast, have been brought to Yokohama and turned over to the French consul.

Japanese Are Reassured.

TOKIO.—The assurance of France that the Russian fleet, except two torpedo boat destroyers which have been disarmed and will be detained until the war ends, have left Jibuti, French Somaliland, reached Tokio today and produced a feeling of general satisfaction.

To Dig Dirt.

WASHINGTON.—Everything is ready for the speedy consummation of the Panama canal treaty, and both the war and the state departments have made preparations for the next step, the former by the dispatch of troops to the isthmus and the latter by the completion of arrangements for the exchange of ratifications of the treaty which must take place in Washington. There is no reason why this ceremony should not occur within the next forty-eight hours.

NEBRASKA NOTES

The women of Albion gave a long year party in the opera house.

The Creighton Farmers' Institute will hold the annual meeting on February 19-20.

A new asbestos curtain has been installed in the Parmelee theater at Plattsmouth.

The home of Bert Stewart near Petersburg, has been quarantined on account of smallpox.

Knights of Pythias lodge No. 17 of Columbus held its annual ball and banquet in Bartel's hall.

Robert McCaren aged 22, recently from Ireland, was killed near Rogers, by falling from a load of hay.

The John Gund Brewing company of LaCrosse, Wis., will build a brick storehouse, 25x140 feet, in Petersburg.

The state treasurer will collect 10 per cent interest on taxes due from counties from and after February 1.

Judge Sutton of Omaha is holding district court at Papillion. There is but one criminal case on the docket.

J. C. Cleveland, an old-time resident of Creighton died recently at the age of 75 years of a stroke of apoplexy.

Captain J. A. Trimball, who ran the first steamboat on Cedar river, died at Cedar Falls, at the age of 79 years.

The Rev. G. H. Sahleh of Omaha delivered a lecture at Beatrice under the auspices of the Woodmen of the World.

W. A. Gourley, a sewing machine peddler, was fined \$5 for using improper language to a woman on the street.

A social entertainment and ball was given at Alliance last night by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers of the Wyoming division.

George Gry, charged with horse stealing was given his preliminary hearing at Beatrice and held to the district court in \$700 bonds.

Patrick J. Rattigan, died of rheumatism at Papillion last Thursday night. He was an old settler and leaves a wife and nine children.

John B. Mumford, one of the pioneer farmers of Beatrice, died after an illness of several years. A widow and six children survive him.

Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Beeson celebrated their golden wedding last Friday at the home of their son, Edward, four miles south of Geneva.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Snow, two of Beatrice's well known people celebrated their golden wedding in the presence of a large number of friends.

The police of Nebraska City are unable to put a stop to petty thieving from cellars and railroad cars. They are being censured by the people.

Frank Gamert, manager of the Standard Oil company's office at Nebraska City, has been given charge at Lincoln. A. W. Johnson will succeed him at the former place.

The February term of court is in session at Columbus. The docket contains ninety-six civil and fourteen criminal cases, with the grand jury still at work.

J. P. Bailey state secretary of the Y. M. C. A., addressed a large audience of men at the Oliver theater, Lincoln upon the subject "Selling Out."

J. A. Gage a nurseryman of Beatrice, has examined the buds of fruit trees in the vicinity and says the prospect for a fruit crop was never better.

A test case of the compulsory education law will be made upon a complaint filed against Louis Figg, living near Fort Crook, which will be heard before Judge Goss at Bellevue on February 20.

Flags in Lincoln are flying at half-mast as an expression of sorrow at the death of Senator Hanna. Schools, public buildings, as well as a number of residences, display the sign of respect.

Prof. Charles Arbuthnot of the state university will give weekly lectures to members of the labor unions at Lincoln, Thursday evenings, the object of which will be to make a practical study of labor and capital.

The Maennerchor at Columbus celebrated its twenty-seventh anniversary last week. The first part of the evening was spent in games and a program. Afterward a banquet was served, and then came dancing.

Counterfeit silver dollars are floating around Greta in large numbers, nearly all the business men being the victims. They bear dates of 1889, 1890 and 1891. Several bad \$5 bills have also been discovered.

A horse owned by Fred Kliger of Fremont was shot recently as an act of mercy. The animal was nearly forty years old, and had been the family carriage horse for twenty-five years, until overcome by old age a few years ago, since which time it has not been out of the stable.